

example, include one or more stripes, dots, alphanumeric characters, symbols, or pictures, or any combination thereof. The fever indicator 60 may be visible from inside the article or outside the article and may be affixed to any component of the article. For example, the fever indicator 60 may be affixed to the topsheet 24, the absorbent material 28, or the backsheet 26. In certain preferred embodiments, the fever indicator 60 is positioned directly beneath the topsheet 24 and is visible after the article is at least partially removed from the wearer. In certain alternative embodiments, the fever indicator 60 may be positioned on the inside of an article, such as on the inside of the backsheet, such that it can be seen through at least a portion of the outer cover. In yet other embodiments, the fever indicator 60 may be disposed on the article in such a way that a patch or portion of the article can be pulled away, permanently or temporarily, such that the indicator is visible without the article being removed from the wearer. In yet other embodiments, the fever indicator 60 may comprise a separate element applied to the article by the caregiver, such as a diaper insert or other carrier element affixed to the topsheet 24 (e.g., via adhesive, a mechanical fastener, friction, etc.) by the caregiver prior to applying the article to the wearer.

The fever indicator 60 generally includes a fever indicating composition 70 or element. The fever indicating composition may be in any physical form, including particles and films. Certain preferred fever indicating compositions may include an indicating component, a temperature sensitive component and a urine sensitive component that function together to provide the caregiver a visual indication of the wearer's elevated body temperature. In one exemplary embodiment, as shown in Figure 5, the fever indicating composition 70 includes an indicating composition 62 in the form of particles suspended in a temperature sensitive component 64 surrounded by a urine sensitive component 66. The indicating component 62, temperature sensitive component 64 and urine sensitive component 66 may each be separate and different components or one element or material may perform more than one of these functions.

The temperature sensitive component 64 may include a composition having a melting or softening point at the predefined threshold value. An exemplary temperature sensitive component is 1-tetradecanol, glycerol diacetate, or myristyl alcohol, which has a melting point of about 38 degrees C. Other nonlimiting exemplary temperature sensitive compositions may include methyl stearate and teppineol. Alternatively, certain waxes and mixtures of other materials may be adapted for use as temperature sensitive components of a fever indicator.

The urine sensitive component 66 preferably changes properties in the presence of urine or is at least partially permeable by urine. For example, the urine sensitive component 66 may dissolve or become more permeable in the presence of urine. The urine sensitive component 66 may sense, or respond to, any of the components or properties of urine, including water, pH, enzymes, urea, etc.. Exemplary materials suitable for use in the urine sensitive component 66 include starches and sugars, polyvinyl alcohol (in situ formed films and pre-manufactured films), gelatins, and other water or pH soluble films or materials. Other suitable materials include wetness or urine indicating compositions as known in the art, such as hot melt wetness indicators, water soluble dye systems, etc., including those described in US Patents 4,022,211; 4,743,238; 5,066,711; 5,342,861; 4,681,576; 5,035,691; 4,231,370; 4,895,567; and 6,075,178; incorporated herein by reference. Additionally, novel urine indicating compositions, such as those described in co-pending and commonly assigned U.S. Application Serial No.

11124963, now pending, for a Wetness Indicator Having Improved Colorant Retention, filed in the name of Thomas J. Klofta et al. in assignee's Case No. 8870 on 19 February 2002, may be employed as the urine sensitive component 66. For example, the urine sensitive component may comprise stearyl alcohol, microcrystalline waxes, ethoxylated